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MONTHLY BULLETIN

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

VOLUME 10 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, FEBRUARY, 1928 NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday evening, 9th inst., at eight o'clock, in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, Ferry Building, 2nd Floor, Room 19.

The speaker of the evening will be Mr. Joseph Mailliard of the California Academy of Sciences. Mr. Mailliard has chosen "Field Experiences in Arizona" for his subject and will illustrate same with slides.

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FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP will be taken to Easton on Sunday, February 12th. The party will form at the corner of Fifth and Market Sts., San Francisco, to take motor bus leaving there about 8:55 a. m. East Bay members should reach Ferry Building not later than 8:20 and take car up Market to Fifth St. Bring lunch and canteens filled as there is no drinking water at luncheon place. Leave bus at Easton Drive. Walk to top of ridge for lunch, to San Andreas Lake and back to highway at Uncle Tom's Cabin, about nine miles. Return by bus or trolley. Bus fare, 25 cents each way.

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ANNUAL DUES are payable in January. Members will greatly facilitate the work of the Treasurer by remitting same without further notice.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING: The eleventh annual meeting of the Association was held on January 12th in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, with Dr. Frederick W. D'Evelyn, President, in the chair; Mrs. Carl Smith, Secretary. Twenty-six members and guests present.

Annual reports were submitted by Treasurer and Chairman of the Outing Committee.

Officers and Directors for 1928 were elected as follows:

Honorary President	Dr. Harold C. Bryant
President	Dr. Frederick W. D'Evelyn
First Vice-President	Mr. Arthur H. Myer
Second Vice-President	Mrs. A. S. Kibbe
Recording Secretary	Mrs. Carl Smith
Corresponding Secretary	Mr. C. B. Lastreto
Treasurer	Mr. Chas. Bryant
Director	Mr. Carl Smith
Director	Mr. C. Harwell
Director	Mrs. G. Earle Kelly

REPORT OF OUTING COMMITTEE, 1927

Your Committee offers its analysis of the records of the 1927 monthly field trips.

Twelve trips were taken, once to each of the following: Lake Merritt, Easton and San Andreas Lake, Point Bonita, Cashion, Contra Costa County, Tennessee Cove, Fairfax, Lake Lagunitas and Ross, Baumberg, University of California Campus and twice to Lake Merced and Golden Gate Park, once in the Spring and again in the Fall.

One hundred and forty different species of birds were observed, an average of 42 species per trip, this number and average having not been recorded since 1920.

The trip to Point Bonita in March proved to be the most popular, both from observation of species, 53 in number, and attendance, with the August trip to Fairfax, Lake Lagunitas and Ross a close second with 51 species.

The same faithful reliable birds were in evidence. In addition the following were placed on the Audubon observation list: California coast screech owl, tree swallow, Caspian tern, red-breasted merganser and Nuttall woodpecker. Some old friends not seen for several years again were observed: western winter wren, red-breasted nuthatch, Sierra creeper, red-head duck and tri-colored blackbird, the latter two not being on the Association's list since 1923.

It is pleasing to note that the band-tailed pigeon is again recorded and to receive such gratifying reports from various sources, members on private excursions, other bird organizations, sportsmen's clubs, that this bird "is coming back" under the protection accorded it by law. Hundreds of these birds in numerous and large flocks have been reported during 1927 from various sections of the State.

Forty-three different members made the excursions, averaging 13 members, and with an average of 9 guests each trip in addition. While the number of members is lower than that of 1926, the general member-attendance is fair, but your Committee hopes this general average on all trips will increase and also that the older members again will respond to the appeal for leadership assistance as was accorded this year past, and for which your Committee now desires to express its appreciation.

January 12, 1928. BESSIE W. KIBBE, *Chairman.*

* * *

Mr. Hartford H. Keifer, Assistant Curator, Department of Entomology, California Academy of Sciences, gave a most instructive and entertaining program, telling of the expedition to the Revillagigedo Islands off the coast of Lower California and showing many fine motion pictures of birds as well as of other wild life.

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CENSUS OF BIRDS' NESTS IN THE MUSIC CONCOURSE

Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California, in 1927

As was the case in the previous Fall, the weather in the Fall of 1927 continued warm until very late in the season, with the result that the foliage remained upon the trees in the music concourse until well into December. It was not until December 12th that sufficient leaves had fallen to make possible the discovery and accurate counting of the nests that had been built in these trees in the 1927 breeding season. Considerable rain had fallen this Fall and most of the nests were more or less in a state of decay.

While it was suspected that the number found would be below the average, it was very discouraging to find fewer nests than in any of the eight years in which the census had been taken. As far as could be determined the number was divided as follows: California Linnet 4, of which 1 had housed a brood, 1 had had the eggs destroyed and 2 had been deserted or were unused; English Sparrow 2, both deserted or unused; Nuttall's Sparrow 11, of which 3 had held broods, 5 had been robbed, as shown by remaining bits of eggshell, 2 had been deserted or were unused and 1 was unfinished; unidentified 1, which was much decayed and contained part of a skeleton of a very young bird; total 19 nests.

Whether the diminution in number of nests was due to a change of nesting ground by the breeding birds of the park, or whether the birds' enemies—cats, rats and squirrels—were responsible for this sad state of affairs remains to be proved.

JOSEPH MAILLIARD,
California Academy of Sciences,
Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California.

NEW ARRIVALS

Two penguins, (*Spheniscus Mendiculus*), from the Galapagos Islands, seem to be perfectly happy in the Steinhart Aquarium, Golden Gate Park. This species is the smallest of the penguins and the most northerly in distribution. A large electric light has been installed in the case so that the birds can enjoy the warmth in drying their plumage.

THE NESTING OF BIRDS

Mr. S. Prentiss Baldwin, director of the Baldwin Bird Research Laboratory near Cleveland, Ohio, assisted by two young ornithologists, has been engaged in making an intensive study of house wrens at his laboratory at Gate Mills. Hundreds of these vociferous songsters nest in the vicinity in boxes specially constructed and numbered. The banding of the young wrens shortly after they are hatched permits a daily record being kept of the life of the wren inhabitants of the bird boxes over a range of a hundred acres.

By the use of an elaborate electrical device, on the order of a potentiometer, Mr. Baldwin has been enabled to tell exactly how much time the mother wren spends on the nest incubating her eggs and how much time she takes off.

Quoting from the article appearing under the above title in *Science*, recent issue: "Thirteen minutes appear to be about the average length of time she can stick on the job, but she seldom stays off longer than six minutes. Almost always she broods her eggs all night during the nesting period, though Mr. Baldwin has a record of one flighty female wren that went out for the evening at 8:50 p. m. and did not return until 1:04 a. m. During the last three days of the incubation period the absences are much less frequent, but of about the same duration.

"The wrenograph, as Mr. Baldwin has christened the instrument, is a thermo-electrical apparatus connected with the electric light circuit that registers the temperature of the nest each time bird goes on and off the eggs. A tiny wire is stretched across the eggs. It looks about like a strand of straw from the nest lining. This wire is connected with a self-recording instrument in the laboratory that registers on a chart the temperature accurate to within one degree Fahrenheit. It is probably the first time that such apparatus has been used to obtain accurate information about the life history of birds.

"Two other instruments based on the same principle, but not self-recording, give more accurate nest and egg temperatures as well as the temperature of the atmosphere near the nest. This enables the bird research workers to note the temperature adjustments in the nest to the warm and cold 'spells' outside during the incubation periods."

Mr. Baldwin, after compilation of the data obtained from such study, expects to write a monograph on the life history of the house wren.

THE JANUARY FIELD TRIP

The January Field Trip was taken to Lake Merritt, Oakland. The party arrived at the feeding pen shortly before 10 o'clock, which is the regular feeding time for the water birds.

The main object of interest was a European Widgeon, which had been reported there two weeks before. The bird was discovered at the feeding pen and was quite easily distinguished from our Widgeon or Baldpate by having a cream colored crown with a head and neck of a rich russet brown. After every one had seen this visitor, the party followed along the shore toward the east.

After walking down the south shore in order to see the Golden-eyes which fed far out, we turned back and those of us who had lunches or were so fortunate as to have friends who had lunches, ate them in a sheltered sunny spot at the arcade. Not having the courage to face the cold wind, no one seemed enthusiastic about exploring Trestle Glen and this would account for the scarcity of land birds.

The list of birds seen were: Western, Eared, and Pied-billed Grebes; White Pelican; Lesser Snow and White-fronted Geese; Mallard, European Widgeon, Baldpate, Shoveller, American Pintail, Canvas-back, Scaup, American Golden-eye, Buffle-head, and Ruddy Ducks. American Coot; Glaucus-winged California and Ring-billed Gulls; Western Robin; Audubon Warbler; Brewer Blackbird; Nuttall White-crowned Sparrow. Twenty-four species.

Members in attendance: Mesdames Bracelin, Kelly, Mexia, Parry, Smith, Stephens; the Misses Ayer, Boegle, Cockefair, Crum, Haefner, Nienburg, A. Paroni, Payne; Dr. Card; Messrs. Bacon, Bryant, Bunker, Elmore, Lockerbie, Myer, Northway, Parry, Smith. Guests: Mesdames Clark and Heald; the Misses Berg, Kartz, Paroni, White; Messrs. Clark and Stephens. Twenty-four members and eight guests.

There was present a large attendance of Boy Scouts and Scout Masters under the guidance of "Bugs" Brighton C. Cain, naturalist for the Boy Scouts of Oakland.

Scout Masters and Assistant Scout Masters were Frederick E. Johnson, Russell Baines, and D. H. Beeson. Scout members present were: Clarence Smith, Bob Taylor, Bob Gardner, Russell Ivy, Charles Miller, Marcy Costa, Robert Fitzpatrick, Herbert White, Robert Ludlow, Robert Delareuelle, Marcel Coutier, Harry Coutier, Dan Ormsbee, Jack Morrill, Burton Davis, and Roy Wellingham.

FRANCES PAYNE, *Historian.*

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

FOR THE STUDY AND THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

President.....Dr. Frederick W. D'Evelyn.....Phelan Bldg., San Francisco
Recording Secretary.....Mrs. Carl Smith.....563 Forty-second Ave., San Francisco
Corresponding Secretary.....C. B. Lastreto.....260 California St., San Francisco
Treasurer.....Chas. Bryant.....Room 1011, 65 Market St., San Francisco

Meets second Thursday of each month at 8:00 p.m., in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, Ferry Building, Second Floor, Room 19.

Address Bulletin correspondence to Mrs. G. Earle Kelly, 1311 Grand St., Alameda.

Subscription to Bulletin alone, 35c per year. Membership dues, payable January 1, $3.00 per year.